

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3 and 4.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 18, 19.

Please add new Claims 22-28.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~modifying a particle suspension~~ preparing a nanoparticle suspension comprising the steps of:
dissolving an organic compound in a water miscible first solvent to create a first solution;
mixing said first solution with a second solvent to precipitate the organic compound to create a suspension of particles;
introducing said suspension into a chamber of a comminuting apparatus;
moving a said suspension ~~of solid particles~~ through said chamber in a first fluid stream and in a first direction;
contacting said first fluid stream with an impacting surface; and
redirecting the fluid stream to flow in a second fluid stream in a second direction that is substantially opposite to said first direction, to cause shearing between the streams and mixing of at least some of the particles ~~in~~ from the first and second streams.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying a particle suspension comprising the steps of:

moving a suspension of solid particles from a first entrance point in a first fluid stream; and

~~moving fluid from a second entrance point in a second fluid stream~~ said second entrance point being substantially oppositely disposed relative to said first entrance point, and

contacting at least one of ~~[[,]]~~ and said first and second streams with an ~~impacting surface~~ obstruction disposed between said first and second entrance points to redirect at least one of said first and second streams such that said second fluid stream is oriented ~~and positioned in a direction that is substantially opposite to the direction of the first stream~~ to cause shearing between the streams and mixing of at least some of the particles in from the first and second streams.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a particle suspension comprising the steps of:

Introducing an organic compound and solvent into a chamber of an apparatus;

~~mixing a solution including a dissolved organic compound with~~ said compound with said solvent to form and forming a suspension of particles;

moving the said suspension into a first fluid stream;

contacting said suspension with an impacting surface; and

~~redirecting the suspension to flow in~~ moving a second fluid stream, ~~second fluid stream is oriented and positioned~~ in a direction that is substantially opposite to the first stream and so as to substantially avoid direct impingement of said streams and cause shearing between the streams and mixing of at least some of the particles ~~in~~ from the first and second streams.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of mixing said compound with said solvent includes using the Venturi effect to combine the solution and the solvent into a single flow path.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a particle suspension comprising the steps of:

moving a solution including an organic compound dissolved in a water-miscible organic compound to form a first solution stream;

moving water in a second solution stream,

contacting at least one of said solution streams with an impingement surface; and having a first contacting surface shaped to ~~redirecting~~ redirect at least one of said first and second solution streams such that said streams substantially avoid direct impingement and such that the first solution stream is oriented and positioned in a direction that is substantially opposite to the direction of the second solution stream so as to cause shearing between the streams and mixing of the solution streams to produce the particle suspension.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 comprising contacting said first fluid stream with a semi-spherical impacting surface.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 comprising contacting said first fluid stream with a substantially flat surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising cooling said second stream.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 comprising cooling said second stream by adding water to said second stream.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 comprising cooling said second stream when said second stream is no longer in contact with said first stream.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 comprising cooling said second stream by mixing said second stream with a liquid.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 contacting said first and second streams with a first impacting surface.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16 further comprising contacting at least one of said first and second streams with a second impacting surface to redirect at least one of said first and second streams.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5 comprising mixing a solution including ~~a dissolved~~ an organic compound with a solvent and a surfactant to form said suspension.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5 further comprising ~~combining a~~ moving said second stream of a solution from a separate entrance point, said solution second stream comprising one or more of water and a surfactant.

20. (Previously Presented) The method Claim 7 wherein said second solution stream includes a surfactant.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 comprising moving said organic compound and water miscible organic compound solution from a first entrance point and moving said water from a second entrance point.

22. (New) The method of Claim 2 further comprising contacting at least one of said first and second streams with an obstruction having a first contacting surface and a second contacting surface.

23. (New) The method of Claim 22 further comprising contacting said first stream with said first contacting surface and contacting said second stream with said second contacting surface.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23 comprising contacting said second stream with said second contacting surface to redirect said second stream and avoid direct impingement of said first and second streams.

25. (New) The method of Claim 23 further comprising passing said first stream through a nozzle disposed between said first entrance point and said obstruction.

26. (New) The method of Claim 19 further comprising contacting at least one of said first or second fluid streams with an obstruction disposed between said first and second entrance points.

27. (New) The method of Claim 20 comprising contacting at least one of said first and second streams with an obstruction that has first and second contacting surfaces.

28. (New) The method of Claim 21 comprising contacting said first stream with said first contacting surface and contacting said second stream with said second contacting surface.